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ON PAGE A-9

NEW YORK TIMES  
3 SEPTEMBER 1981

## India Denies Soviet Prompted Barring of Diplomat

Special to The New York Times

NEW DELHI, Sept. 2 — A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry confirmed today that India had vetoed the posting of a senior diplomat at the United States Embassy here.

The spokesman said the Government had decided against accepting the diplomat, George G. B. Griffin, as political counselor "after a careful evaluation of his activities during his various postings in India and the subcontinent."

"It is incorrect to suggest," the spokesman said, "that views, information or pronouncements made by any

other country played a part in India's decision."

Reports from Washington had suggested that the Indian action was influenced by the Soviet Union. The State Department said that the decision was unwarranted and that it was "particularly regretful" that the decision came at a time "when Mr. Griffin had been a target of a Soviet disinformation campaign."

The Indian spokesman, in denying that outside views had a bearing on his Government's decision said, "Any such conclusion or insinuation is resented by the Government of India."

He said Mr. Griffin was being rejected "to avoid unnecessary friction being introduced into bilateral relations" with the United States, which, he said, "we value and have always sought to strengthen."

Mr. Griffin was with the United States mission in Calcutta in 1971 when India was moving toward war with Pakistan over Bangladesh. He has also served in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pro-Soviet newspapers in India have

frequently used his name in connection with activities attributed to the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Griffin's visits here from Kabul to brief the press have also drawn adverse comments.

At one point the Soviet Embassy was reported to have protested to the Indian Foreign Ministry about "biased press briefings" on developments in Afghanistan said to emanate from the United States Embassy. According to Indian reports, Mr. Griffin's appointment was not favored by the Government because of his "difficult attitude toward India and his intelligence connections."

### U.S. Explains Retaliation

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (UPI) — The State Department said today that it had barred the posting of an Indian diplomat here in retaliation for New Delhi's rejection of George G. B. Griffin.

The department accused the Soviet Union of complicity in the affair on the ground that the Russians had spread allegations in India that Mr. Griffin was an intelligence agent.

Mr. Griffin, 46 years old, had served in the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, and was to be assigned this summer to the embassy in New Delhi.

When the Indian declined to accept him, the United States refused to allow an Indian diplomat to come here, according to Dean Fischer, the State Department spokesman.

"We did tell the Indians that if Mr. Griffin were not allowed to proceed to New Delhi as planned, we did not wish his opposite number, a political counselor, being assigned to Washington, to proceed here," Mr. Fischer said. "We did ask the Indians, when this matter arose, to reconsider their action. But they did not change their position."

Mr. Griffin will be assigned to an embassy in another country, officials said.